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Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): T. ElBatt, et al.) Re: Information Disclosure
) Statement
Serial No.: 10/629,327) Group: 2613
)
Filed: July 28, 2003) Examiner: David C. Payne
)
) Our Ref: B-4419NP 621007-7
)
For: "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR...") Date: December 15, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA, 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the Applicants' duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the next Office Action on the merits. Copies of the U.S. patent documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) are not enclosed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a) (2) (ii). The documents listed were cited by the Examiner in an Office Action for related U.S. Patent Application No. 10/438,418.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

This IDS is being submitted after receiving an Office Action on the merits, but before receiving a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, and is accompanied by a check for \$180, which is the fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Thus, this IDS should be fully considered on the merits, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d).

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

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The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450", on December 15, 2006 by Guillermo Gonzalez.



Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)
Check for \$180.00

Respectfully submitted,

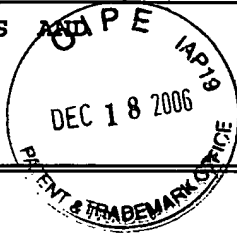


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LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS STATEMENT	APPLICANTS ElBatt, et al.	
	FILING DATE July 28, 2003	GROUP 2613



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE or 102(e) DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,764,699	6/1998	Needham, et al.	375	261	
	6,122,084	9/2000	Britz, et al.	398	131	
	2002/122230	9/2002	Izadpanah, et al.	359	145	
	6,681,081	1/2004	Mao	398	147	
	6,889,009	5/2005	Willebrand	398	115	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant